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Programs - Masquers
June 18, 1919

1219
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STATE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
MISSOULA, MONTANA

PROGRAM

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

THE MASQUERS CLUB

PRESENTS

THE IMPORTANCE *of* BEING EARNEST

A Trivial Comedy for Serious People

By

OSCAR WILDE

Liberty Theater

Wednesday, June 18, 1919

8:15 p. m.

In addition to the regular staff of the Liberty Theater, the present production is undertaken by direction of the following.

General Director

MR. HOWARD MUMFORD JONES

In charge of costuming and make-up

MR. PHILLIP S. BROWN

In charge of properties

MR. RADCLIFFE BECKWITH

MISS HELEN SARD HUGHES

Business Managers

For the English department

MR. ANDERS ORBECK

For the Masquers' Club

MR. LAMBERT DEMERS

Special thanks are due to Miss Margaret Wickes, to J. M. Lucy and Sons, who have kindly lent the furniture used throughout the play, to the Daily Missoulian, and to others who have assisted.

The Importance of Being Earnest



CHARACTERS

In the order of their appearance

Lane (Mr. Monerieff's man-servant)	Thomas B. Moore
Algernon Monerieff	Harry J. Jardine
John Worthing, J. P. (of the Manor House, Woolton, Hertfordshire)	A. J. Farmer
Lady Braeknell	Helen A. Little
Hon. Gwendoline Fairfax (her daughter)	Naomi F. Allen
Miss Prism	Helen M. Prescott
Cecily Cardew (Mr. John Worthing's ward)	Virginia Yegen
Rev. Canon Chasuble, D.D. (rector of Woolton)	Thomas G. Swearingen
Merriman (butler to Mr. Worthing)	John R. Toole

Act I—Algernon Monerieff's rooms in Half Moon street, London.
Late afternoon.

Act II—The garden at the Manor House, Woolton. The after-
noon of the next day.

Act III—Morning-room at the Manor House, Woolton. Same day
as act II.

Time: The present.

PROGRAM NOTE

Oscar Fingel O'Flahertie Wills Wilde, better known as Oscar Wilde, was born in Dublin, October 16, 1854, and died, it is thought, in 1900. His personality has become a legend; his plays are but one side of his kaleidoscopic genius.

"To Wilde," writes Archibald Henderson, "creation in art consisted in the celebration of a mental holiday. In the guise of interpreter of the modern spirit he was always happening upon the discovery of a great, a unique truth; and this he flippantly and condescendingly condescended to communicate to that boorish monster, the public." In an inverted way, Wilde aimed to teach the world the importance of being frivolous. That is why *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1895) is a serious and epochal contribution to English drama.

Mr. Henderson further says. "'The Importance of Being Earnest' is Wilde's nearest approach to a unique *genre* . . . the truth is that it is an epigrammatic extravaganza, cast in the form of farce. . . . This play is actually social satire on the fantastic plane."

The present play was first produced at the St. James Theater, London. This is its first performance by the Masquers Club.